

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

ORDER NO. 91-116

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

RESCINDING CEASE AND DESIST ORDER NO. 85-69 AND CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ORDER NO. 85-005 ISSUED TO THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO AS A RESULT OF VIOLATIONS OF NPDES PERMITS CA0037672 (NORTH POINT WPCP) AND CA0037664 (SOUTHEAST WPCP)

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region (Board), finds that:

1. The City and County of San Francisco (discharger) operates the Southeast water pollution control plant (WPCP), the North Point WPCP, and the North Shore pump station. During dry weather, the North Point WPCP does not operate, and influent sewage is instead pumped from the North Shore pump station to the Southeast WPCP, where it receives secondary treatment. During wet-weather, the North Point WPCP provides primary treatment and reduces the number of combined sewer overflows in the North Shore area.
2. On December 14, 1984, the discharger shut down the North Shore pump station after one of the four dry-weather pump assemblies failed and the others showed signs of imminent failure. Shafts connecting the pumps and electric motors suffered metal fatigue and fractures due to severe vibrations.
3. During the period December 14, 1984, through January 30, 1985, and February 4-5, 1985, the discharger was forced to operate the North Point WPCP to avoid a raw sewage bypass from North Shore pump station. About 2,000 million gallons of sewage received only primary treatment during this period. This discharge violated provisions in Board Order No. 84-27 (NPDES permit CA0037664, for Southeast WPCP) and Order No. 84-47 (NPDES permit CA0037672, for North Point WPCP).
4. On January 22, 1985, the Board's Executive Officer issued Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 85-005 to the discharger for violations of the two permits.
5. On May 15, 1985, the Board adopted Order No. 85-69, requiring the discharger to cease and desist discharging waste in violations of the two permits. At the same meeting, the Board adopted Resolution No. 85-0008,

requesting the Attorney General to seek civil liability against the discharger for permit violations.

6. The discharger and the Attorney General subsequently agreed to a settlement whereby the discharger would pay \$40,000 in civil liability as a result of permit violations in December 1984 to February 1985.
7. The discharger put one North Shore pump back in service in late January 1985, two others in May 1985, and the fourth pump in August 1985.
8. The discharger has complied with all tasks in Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 85-005 and Cease and Desist Order No. 85-69. The dry-weather pump assemblies at North Shore pump station have been modified to prevent future failures due to vibration. In particular, the discharger installed thicker, stronger shafts between the pumps and motors and improved the shaft couplings and the electrical controls to the motors.
9. This action is an order to rescind enforcement orders previously adopted by the Board. This action is therefore categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15121 of the Resources Agency's CEQA Guidelines.
10. The discharger and interested persons have been notified of the Board's intent to rescind the above enforcement orders, and have been provided an opportunity to appear at the public hearing. At a public meeting on June 19, 1991, the Board heard and considered all comments pertaining to the proposed action.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- A. Cleanup and Abatement Order No. 85-005 is rescinded.
- B. Cease and Desist Order No. 85-69 is rescinded.

I, Steven R. Ritchie, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on July 17, 1991.

  
STEVEN R. RITCHIE  
Executive Officer